some extent, though not considerably, since out of 5,39,982 active fishermen i.e. Full-time and part-time fishermen, in the State (as on 31.12.94) only about 82,000 fishermen were being covered under the scheme upto 1995-96, which amounts to only about 15% of the active marine fisherment population in the State.

(e) The Government is reconsidering the decision to discontinue the Saving-cum Relief Component of the National Welfare of Fishermen Scheme. However, as already brought out in part (a) above, the scheme is, at present, applicable only to marine fishermen and is not being implemented by all the maritime States/Union Territories. There is no proposal, at present, to extent it to the inland sector also.

Restructuring of North Eastern Council

3577. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for setting up a separate Ministry for the N.E. State;

(b) whether the Government have any proposal to structure the existing North Eastern Council; and

(c) if so, the nature of the proposed restructure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Certain suggestions for restructuring of the North Eastern Council have been received from some Chief Ministers and Governors of the North Eastern States. No final decision have been taken on these suggestions.

Purchase of Electronic Equipments

3578. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have centralised the purchase of computers and other electronic equipments needed by various Ministries Departmental Undertakings and Public Sector Enterprises;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the prices of the equipments in the open market is less than half of the prices being paid by the Government through the Central purchasing system; and

(d) if so, the rationale behind the continuance of such a system?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (d). The Directorate General Supplies and Disposals (DGS&D) under the Department of Supply, Ministry of Commerce is the Central Purchase Organisation of the Government of India. According to the information furnished by the Department of Supply, purchase of computers and other electronic equipments is not centralised in DGS&D. The DGS&D also does not have a Rate contract for computers at present.

Recognition to Rajasthani Language

3579. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been constant demand for giving due recognition to the Rajasthani language;

(b) if so, the steps taken to include the Rajasthani language in the Eighth Schedule of the constitution; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c). Demands have been made to include Rajasthani language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. However, the question of inclusion or otherwise of any or more languagre in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution is under consideration of the Government.

Price of Sugarcane

3580. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uttar Pradesh had submitted any representation to Union/State Governments regarding the present price of sugarcane which is not in accordance with the present economic situation; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Union as well as State Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b). The representation of the Associated Chamber of Commerce & Industries of U.P. regarding the price of sugarcane not being in accordance with the present economic situation was received in the Govt. of U.P. The State Govt. had meetings which the representatives of the Associated Chamber of Commerce & Industries of U.P. and other Sugar Mills Associations before announcing the State Advised Price (SAP).

After considering all the relevant factors, the State Govt. announced the cane price of Rs.72 per quintal for common variety and Rs.76 per quintal for early maturing variety of cane for the sugar seasons 1996-97.

The U.P. Sugar Mills Associations has challenged the U.P. Govt's. order announcing the above State Advised Price in a writ petition before the Hon'ble High